

Water is an important resource. Every day we use large amounts of water in our homes for washing, cooking, drinking and cleaning.

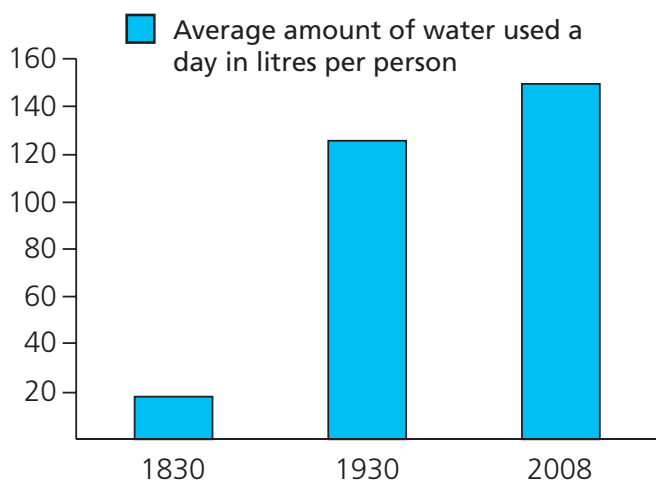
Anglian Water customers only pay about 1p for 50 small glasses of water. What a cheap and healthy way to quench your thirst! But water's not just for drinking. We use it in lots of different ways at home.

What do we need water for?

We cannot live without water, so we need to drink plenty to stay healthy. But we also use water in different ways. For example, we use it when we cook certain foods. We also use water for washing our clothes, our dirty dishes and ourselves. Every time we flush the toilet we use water. Our washing machines and dishwashers also use a lot of water. Even our central heating systems contain water!

How much water do we use?

In 1830 one person in the UK would have managed with 18 litres a day. By 1930 the amount had risen to 126 litres. Water use at home has increased even more in recent years because more people have appliances such as washing machines and dishwashers and are using hosepipes and power showers. Each person in England and Wales now uses an average of between 135 and 150 litres of water every day.



Did you know that more than a third of the water we use at home is flushed down the toilet?





How much?

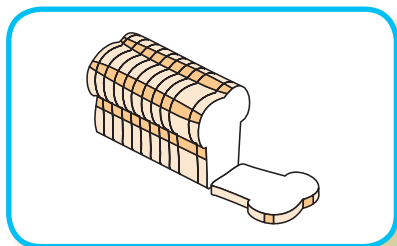
Below is a rough guide to the amounts of water used in different activities at home.

Activity	How much water is used?
Running the tap	8 – 12 litres per minute
Washing up in the sink	6 – 8 litres
Washing hands and face	3 – 9 litres
Taking a normal shower	6 – 12 litres per minute
Taking a power shower	13 – 22 litres per minute
Flushing the toilet	6 – 12 litres
Running a modern dishwasher	15 litres
Running a modern washing machine	60 – 80 litres
Having a bath	75 – 90 litres
Using a hosepipe	550 – 1,000 litres per hour
Making food and drink	6 – 10 litres

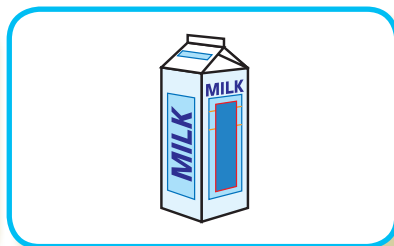


Who else uses water?

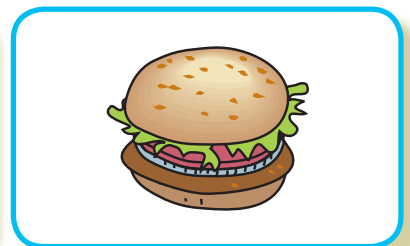
Farmers need lots of water for growing crops, especially when the weather is hot and dry. Factories also use large amounts of water for making things. Have a look at the pictures below to find out approximately how much water is used to make some of our foods and everyday items.



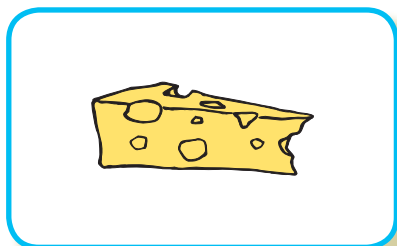
A slice of white bread
40 litres



1 pint of milk
600 litres



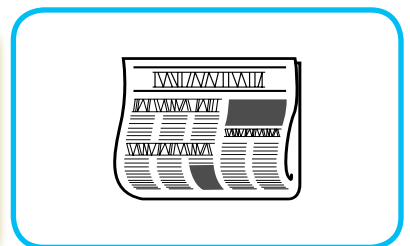
A burger
2,400 litres



1kg of cheese
5,000 litres



A cotton shirt
2,700 litres



A newspaper
5 – 10 litres



You can work out roughly how much water you use at home by keeping a record, or water diary.

Learning objective:

To find out how water is used at home.

What to do

- 1 Make a record every time you use some water in one of the ways described in the 'Personal activities' column. You could use the tally system to help you count up accurately. Then fill in the amount on the chart overleaf.
- 2 Make sure you put your results in the correct column. Check what day it is.
- 3 Speak to an adult each day to find out if you use water in any of the household activities in the table. Make a record in the table if you did.
- 4 Carry out your water survey every day for a week until your chart is full!

You will need:

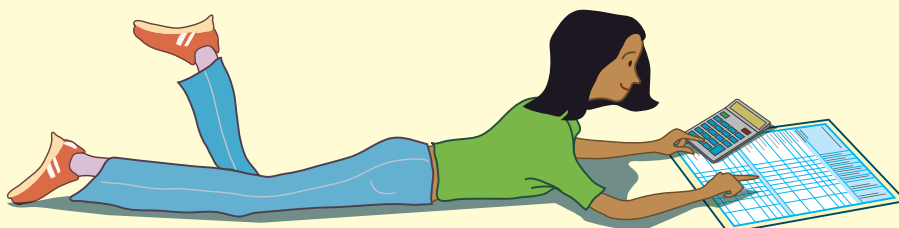
- A calculator
- A pen or pencil

Activities

You can work out how much water you used for each Activity by multiplying the total number of times you did that Activity by the estimated water use for that Activity (you will find the information on the chart).

Challenge yourself to work out the tables using your maths skills. You could check if you were right by using a calculator.

If you washed your hands 25 times in a week, the total water use would be 25×15 , which is 375 litres.



WATER USE DIARY

Activity	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Total number of times in a week	Estimated water used (litres)	Total weekly water used
Personal activities										
Having a drink									0.25	
Washing your face or hands under a running tap (3 mins)									15	
Flushing the toilet									6	
Brushing your teeth (turning the tap off between brushing)									2	
An average shower (5 mins)									40	
An average power shower (5 mins)									100	
Household activities										
Washing the dishes by hand									10	
Using a dishwasher									25	
Using a washing machine									80	
One watering can on the garden									5	
Using a hosepipe on the garden (in minutes)									15 for each min	
Cooking and food preparation									15	
Other										

Now think about this!

When your chart is complete, use it to answer these questions:

1 Which Activity was the one that was done most regularly?

2 Which Activity used the most water over the course of the week?

3 What was the total amount of water you used over the course of the week? To work this out, add up the total weekly water use for each Activity in your table!
